

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

GOP CHALLENGE



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. listens at left as President Barack Obama speaks during a town hall meeting at Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nev., Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS

MILLER TIME



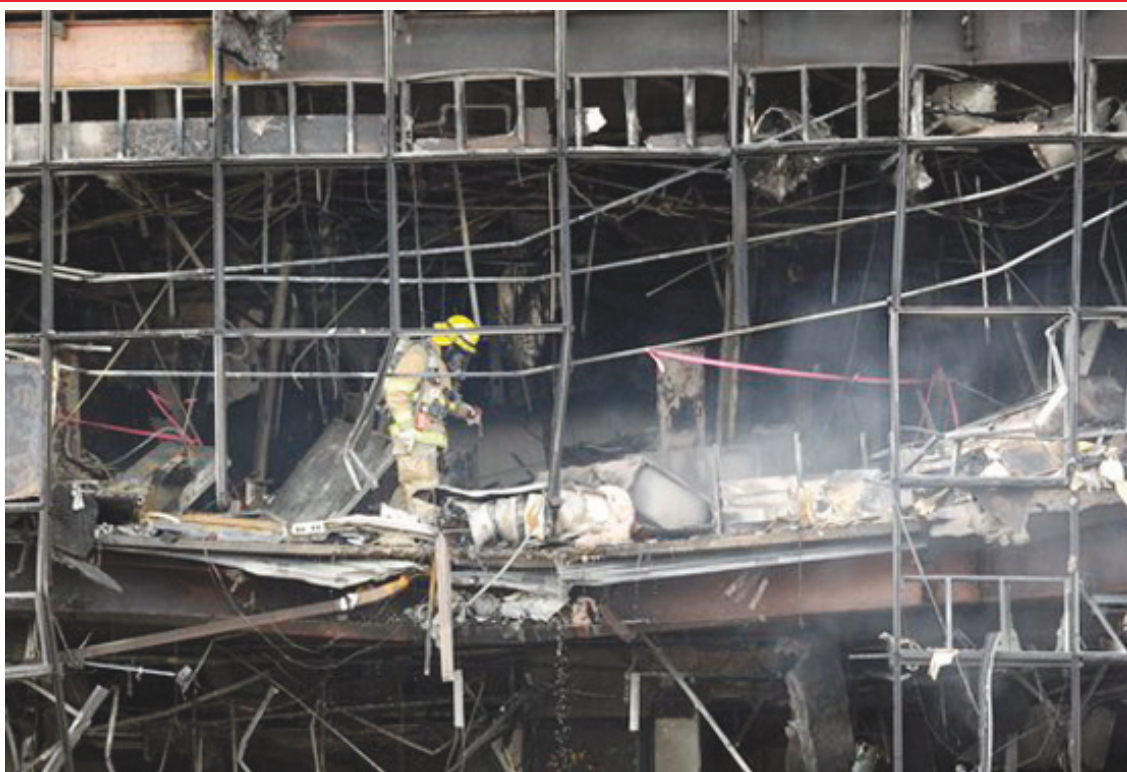
Silver medalist Bode Miller of the United States reacts during the flower ceremony for the Men's super-G at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

Read more on Page A13

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A firefighter walks inside a damaged building, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, in Austin, Texas. Authorities said that Joseph Stack flew his small plane into the building that housed several employees of the Internal Revenue Service.

Associated Press

Austin plane crash exposes gap in U.S. air security

By MICHELLE ROBERTS and MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press Writers
GEORGETOWN, Texas

— After 9/11, cockpit doors were sealed, air marshals were added and airport searches became more aggressive, all to make sure an airliner could never again be used as a weapon. Yet little has been done to guard against attacks with smaller planes.

That point was driven home with chilling force on Thursday when a Texas man with a grudge against the IRS crashed his single-engine

plane into an office building in a fiery suicide attack. One person inside the building was also killed.

"It's a big gap," said R. William Johnstone, an aviation security consultant and former staff member of the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks. "It wouldn't take much, even a minor incident involving two simultaneously attacking planes, to inflict enough damage to set off alarm bells and do some serious harm to the economy and national psyche."

The suburban Georgetown

Municipal Airport that pilot Joe Stack entered hours before his airborne attack in nearby Austin had the casual atmosphere of a sleepy parking garage.

Continued on Page 3



In this Feb. 14, 2002 file photo, Jay Bybee testifies before a congressional committee in Washington.

Associated Press

Review: No misconduct for interrogation lawyers

MATT APUZZO

Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Department lawyers showed "poor judgment" but did not commit professional misconduct when they authorized CIA interrogators to use waterboarding and other harsh tactics at the height of the U.S. war on terrorism, an internal review released Friday found.

Continued on Next Page

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In this Thursday, June 26, 2008 photo, John Yoo, a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

NO MISCONDUCT

Continued from Front Page

The decision closes the book on one of the major lingering investigations into the counterterrorism policies of George W. Bush's administration. President Barack Obama campaigned on abolishing the simulated drowning technique of

Associated Press

waterboarding and other tactics that he called torture, but he left open the question of whether anyone would be punished for authorizing such methods.

An initial review by the Justice Department's internal affairs unit found that former government lawyers Jay Bybee and

John Yoo had committed professional misconduct, a conclusion that could have cost them their law licenses. But the Justice Department's top career lawyer reviewed the matter and disagreed.

"This decision should not be viewed as an endorsement of the legal work that underlies those memoranda," Assistant Deputy Attorney General David Margolis wrote in a memo released Friday.

Margolis is the most senior nonpolitical Justice Department lawyer and a veteran of several administrations.

Because both Yoo and Bybee are out of the government, the decision spares them any immediate sanctions.

The memos authorized CIA detainees to use waterboarding, keep detainees naked, hold them in painful standing

positions and keep them in the cold for long periods of time. Other techniques included depriving them of solid food and slapping them. Sleep deprivation, prolonged shackling and threats to a detainee's family were also used. The memos have been the source of debate within the legal and intelligence communities. Some believe the lawyers had a responsibility to put the brakes on such tactics, even during the panic-filled months after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Others say lawyers always make the best argument they can in support of their employer's — in this case, the White House.

Lawyers for the Yoo and Bybee did not immediately return messages seeking comment. But in documents submitted to the Justice Department, Yoo's lawyer,

Miguel Estrada, sought to turn the tables on the investigators, accusing them of shoddy work in their internal investigation. Estrada accused the Office of Professional Responsibility of trying to be a "Junior Varsity CIA" that second-guessed intelligence operatives and played "roulette with the lives of thousands of Americans."

"Yoo gave correct legal advice in good faith, and under pressure that few will ever experience. That should be the end of the matter," Estrade wrote.

Obama has said CIA interrogators who relied on the memos will not face charges for their behavior. A separate criminal inquiry is under way into whether a handful of CIA operatives crossed the line, leading to the death of detainees. □



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Case closed: FBI says scientist was anthrax killer

DEVLIN BARRETT
PETE YOST

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The FBI sought to close the book on its long, frustrating hunt for the killer behind the 2001 anthrax letters Friday, formally ending its investigation and concluding a mentally unhinged scientist was responsible for killing five people and unnerving Americans nationwide.

After years of false leads, no arrests and public criticism, the FBI and Justice Department said Dr. Bruce Ivins, a government researcher, acted alone. Ivins killed himself in 2008 as prosecutors prepared to indict him for the attacks. He had denied involvement, and his family and some friends have continued to insist he was innocent.

Investigators had tried earlier to build a case against biowarfare expert Steven Hatfill, who had worked for a time in the same military lab as Ivins, but ultimately turned away from that theory and had to pay him a multimillion-dollar settlement.

Many details of the case have already been disclosed, but newly released FBI documents paint a fuller portrait of Ivins as a troubled doctor whose

life's work was teetering toward failure at the time the letters laced with anthrax were sent. As the U.S. responded to the mailings, that work was given new importance by the government, and he was even honored for his efforts on anthrax.

The documents also describe what investigators say was Ivins' bizarre, decades-long obsession with a sorority. The anthrax letters were dropped in a mailbox near the sorority's office in Princeton, New Jersey.

The letters were sent to lawmakers and news organizations as the nation reeled in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Postal facilities, U.S. Capitol buildings and private offices were shut for inspection and cleaning by workers in hazardous materials "space suits" from Florida to Washington to New York and beyond. In closing the case, officials also released reams of evidence, and a 92-page summary of their findings.

To the FBI's critics, the mountain of new documents could not paper over what they say are glaring holes in the case.

"The evidence the FBI

produced would not, I think, stand up in court," said Rep. Rush Holt, a Democrat whose New Jersey district includes the Princeton mailbox used in the attacks. "But because their prime suspect is dead and they're not going to court, they seem satisfied with barely a circumstantial case."

Ivins' lawyer Paul Kemp said he saw nothing new in the findings. "All they have confirmed is that they suspected him belatedly after finding out he had psychological problems," he said. "Sadly they substitute that for proof."

Authorities say Ivins' death capped a years-long cat-and-mouse game with investigators, in which he repeatedly offered to help the FBI catch the killer, cast suspicion on his colleagues and tried numerous forms of subterfuge.

After the attacks, the FBI relied heavily on Ivins' help, according to the documents, and the scientist offered agents his notebooks, his office and his e-mail. FBI agents found him easygoing and funny. He had kittens on his computer screen saver and gave one FBI agent a jar of syrup for a gift. He passed a polygraph in connection with the probe

in 2002, but investigators learned years later that he had been prescribed psychotropic medications at the time, and examiners who reassessed the results concluded he exhibited classic signs of the use of countermeasures to pass the test.

Authorities say Ivins nursed a secret fascination with the sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma that dated back decades, and at one point years ago, they say, he stalked a member of the sorority.

The new documents also present a novel theory why the anthrax notes featured block writing that highlighted specific letters within words. Investigators believe Ivins' use of the letters was part of a secret code that had two possible meanings: pointing to a colleague or stating a specific dislike of New York. Two of the letters were sent to New York — one to the New York Post, another to NBC's then-anchor Tom Brokaw.

The anthrax case was one of the most vexing and costly investigations in U.S. history. Officials announced in 2008 that the lone suspect was Ivins. The move Friday seals that preliminary investigative conclusion.



Bruce E. Ivins, a biodefense researcher is seen in 2003, at Fort Detrick, Md. Ivins, the scientist who was developing a vaccine to combat anthrax. After seven frustrating years probing the deadly 2001 anthrax mailings, the FBI formally closed the case Friday, concluding a mentally unhinged government researcher acted alone.

Associated Press

The spores killed five people: two postal workers in Washington, D.C., a New York City hospital worker, a Florida photo editor and a 94-year-old Connecticut woman who had no known contact with any of the poisoned letters. Seventeen other people were sickened.



Foreground from left to right, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo, FBI agent Ralph Diaz, Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, and City Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, and others walk together before a news conference in Austin, Texas on Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, near the building which Andrew Joseph Stack III collided with in his airplane on Thursday.

Associated Press

AIR SECURITY

Continued from Front Page

Pilots were not subject to baggage checks, metal detector scans or pat-downs. And they are usually not required to file

flight plans.

"How are they going to stop it? This guy had a hangar, and he had access to the airport," said Beth Ann Jenkins, president of Pilot's Choice, a flight school

near where Stack kept his Piper.

Travis McLain, manager of the airport, said: "I don't know of a rule or regulation or safety precaution that could have prevented what happened yesterday."

The easy access and lack of security are the result of years of debate — and stalemate — over how much of a threat small aircraft pose as terror weapons and how they could be regulated without stifling commerce and pilot freedom. While the airlines quickly accepted tougher security after Sept. 11, the general aviation industry, which includes everything from privately owned propeller-driven planes to large corporate jets, have aggressively fought new measures.

The proposed rules would require that operators of medium and large general-aviation aircraft demonstrate that flight crews have undergone

a criminal background check. They would also be required to verify passengers are not on the no-fly lists already used by large airlines.

Private pilots fly approximately 200,000 small and medium-size planes in the U.S., using 19,000 airports, most of them small. The planes' owners insist the aircraft have nothing in common with airliners but the sky.

"I don't see a gaping security hole here," said Tom Walsh, an aviation security consultant. "In terms of aviation security, there are much bigger fish to fry than worrying about small aircraft." He said most would-be terrorists would draw the same conclusion — that tiny aircraft don't pack a big enough punch.

Planes like Stack's weigh just a few thousands pounds and carry no more than 100 gallons of fuel, he noted. A Boeing 767 weighs 400,000 pounds and carries up to 25,000 gallons of

fuel.

Walsh and other general aviation advocates argue that stringent security and bureaucracy would deter recreational fliers and slow down a vibrant, multibillion-dollar general aviation industry, causing economic damage.

"What it comes down to is that the cure could be worse than the disease," he said.

Jeffrey Price, a Denver-based aviation expert, said: "If I own my plane, I can drive to the airport, get in and just take off. Pilots want that sense of freedom. ... Like motorcycle riders." Every pilot, from the beginner student to the commercial airline pilot, is checked against the government's terror watchlist. Also, under federal rules imposed after Sept. 11, people enrolling in flight schools must show proof of U.S. citizenship or, if they are foreigners, must undergo a background check □

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Obama challenges GOP on health care, boosts Reid



President Barack Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. wave following a town hall meeting at Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nev., Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

BEN FELLER, health care summit with both
Associated Press Writer Republicans and Democrats,
HENDERSON, Nev. — Days President Barack Obama made
before hosting an intensive a fervent push for his overhaul,

Associated Press

calling it critical not just for the millions without insurance but for the entire country's economic well-being.

"It is vital for our economy to change how health care works in this country," Obama said Friday at a town hall meeting in a high school gym. "Don't let the American people go another year, another 10 years, another 20 years without health insurance reform in this country."

The president's plea for his top domestic priority, which faces an uncertain fate after nearly a year of work in Congress, earned him huge applause. He said the drawn-out effort has cost him politically, and also has undercut the standing of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Obama was in Nevada to help the Senate leader survive a tough re-election fight this year — a race that could have a big impact on the balance of power in Washington and the fate of Obama's own proposals on health care and beyond. Obama needs to protect every vote he can in the Senate if his own agenda is to succeed.

"Health care has been knocking me around pretty good," Obama said. "It's been knocking Harry around pretty good."

But the president suggested that was due more to misinformation about the plans than to general unpopularity of the overhaul, and he defended the Democratic bills that have passed both houses of Congress, but have not been

reconciled into one piece of legislation.

The president's bipartisan summit is being held Thursday. He dared Republicans to present a proposal addressing the uninsured and rising medical costs, rather than merely saying no to Democratic approaches.

But the summit approaches with hardly a feeling of cooperation. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Obama and the Democrats are offering "a partisan bill devoid of support from the American people."

Reid's Washington office said the senator will support allowing the government to sell health insurance in competition with private insurers if the White House and Democratic leaders decide to push a health bill with no GOP backing.

Many conservatives and some moderates oppose the so-called public option. It's in the bill the House passed last year, but not the Senate version.

Some congressional Democrats say they doubt the White House will include a public option in the proposal it will unveil Monday.

The Nevada appearance was billed as focusing on the economy but turned into an extended campaign plug for Reid, seen as one of nation's most vulnerable incumbents in the November elections. Reid introduced Obama and then sat behind him, basking in each applause line.

Obama wrapped his arms around Reid at the start of the event and embraced his work throughout.

The president rarely missed a chance — on the economic stimulus plan, on health care, on the effort to regulate big banks — to put himself and Reid in the same sentence. □

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Lawyer: Prof. accused in slayings is remorseful

DESIREE HUNTER,
Associated Press Writer
HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (AP) — The university professor charged with fatally shooting three colleagues is remorseful but does not recall the shooting, her defense attorney said Friday. Roy W. Miller said Amy Bishop, 44, is likely insane and does not remember pulling out a handgun and shooting six colleagues, three fatally, at a biology department faculty meeting one week ago at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. "She just doesn't remember shooting these folks," he said.

But he said she is now "aware of what she's done. She's very sorry for it." He said he has not spoken with her about where she got the gun. Police have said it was not registered to her, and her husband has said he does not know where she got it. Miller said Bishop breaks down and cries, wanting to see her four children, but is trying to remain strong. Despite facing a possible death sentence, she is still concerned about her professional life and her position at the university. "She said, 'Do I still have a job out there?' She asked me that yesterday," Miller said.

"She said, 'Do you know if I have a job? I assume they fired me. Did they fire me?'" University officials have said she remains on the payroll, but her \$83,000-a-year job was ending at the end of the semester because she was denied tenure. Bishop is charged with capital murder and attempted murder and is being held without bond. Meanwhile, state police in her home state of Massachusetts said Friday they were reviewing their investigation into Bishop's fatal shooting of her younger brother in 1986, which had been ruled



In this Friday, Feb 12, 2010 file photo, Amy Bishop is detained by Huntsville, Ala. police, on the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus in Huntsville, Ala. A deadly shooting on Feb. 12 during a faculty meeting at the University of Alabama-Huntsville has cast a spotlight on the pressure-packed quest for tenure.

Associated Press

Poll: Canada rates first among Americans; Iran last

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — Canada retained its top position as the country viewed most favorably by Americans, while Iran again ranked last in Gallup's annual World Affairs survey according to results released Friday. Ninety percent of Americans viewed their northern neighbor favorably in Gallup's survey of 20 nations that figure prominently in the news or U.S. foreign policy, according to the survey. Americans had decidedly mixed views toward their southern neighbor, with only 49 percent viewing Mexico favorably at a time its image has suffered from intensifying violence in the drug war. Iran was seen favorably by only 10 percent of Americans in the poll after a year dominated by headlines over its nuclear program and crackdown on anti-government protesters. North Korea, which is under pressure to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, was next-to-last with only a 14 percent favorability rating. Gallup found that seven other countries were viewed favorably by a majority of Americans: Britain (87 percent), Germany (80 percent), Japan (77 percent), Israel (67 percent), India (66 percent), France (63

percent) and Egypt (58 percent). Those nations with the lowest favorability ratings in the poll included: Afghanistan (18 percent), the Palestinian Authority (20 percent), Yemen (21 percent), Iraq (23 percent), Pakistan (23 percent), Cuba (29 percent), and Saudi Arabia (35 percent). Yemen was included for the first time in the survey after the suspect in the Christmas Day bomb attempt against a Detroit-bound airliner was linked to a Yemen-based al-Qaida terrorist group. Americans had mixed views about China, a growing economic rival, with 42 percent viewing it favorably and 53 percent unfavorably. Russia, which saw its favorability rating in 2009 drop to 40 percent most likely due to its war against Georgia, rebounded in this year's survey to 47 percent. Most countries' favorability ratings, however, were essentially unchanged during the first year of the Obama administration, Gallup said. The results were based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,025 adult Americans, conducted from Feb. 1 to 3. The survey has a margin of error of 4 percentage points. □

accidental. Miller told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that Bishop has severe mental problems and appears to have paranoid schizophrenia. He said Bishop's failure to get tenure at the university was likely a key to the shootings. Bishop, who has a doctorate from elite Harvard University and has taught at University of Alabama in Huntsville since 2003, apparently was incensed that a lesser-known school rejected her for what amounted to a lifetime job. "Obviously she was very distraught and concerned over that tenure," Miller said. "It insulted her and slapped her in the face, and it's probably tied in with the Harvard mentality. She brooded and brooded and brooded over it, and then, 'bingo.'" Bishop's husband, James Anderson, told ABC television that he also thought the failed tenure battle was involved. "Only someone who has been intricately involved with that fight understands what a tough, long, hard battle (it is). ... That I would say is part of the problem, is a factor," he said in an interview aired Friday. Anderson said his wife had never taken any anger management courses, even though prosecutors asked for that when she was charged with starting a fight over a booster seat at a restaurant in 2002. Anderson told ABC he didn't think she needed the course. Bishop admitted to the assault in court, and the charges were dismissed six

months later. Miller said Bishop seems "very cogent" in jail, where he has spent more than three hours with her over two days, yet she also seems to realize she has a loose grip on reality. "She gets at issue with people that she doesn't need to and obsesses on it," Miller said. "She won't shake it off, and it's really (things of) no great consequence." Bishop, who claims an IQ of 180, can't explain the shooting and doesn't remember anything about it, he said. The chief prosecutor in Huntsville, Madison County District Attorney Robert Broussard, said he would not oppose a mental evaluation for Bishop. Miller said he expects prosecutors to seek the death penalty, but Broussard said his office hasn't decided whether to seek Bishop's execution or a sentence of life without parole if she is convicted. Broussard said investigators had yet to review evidence about Bishop's troubled past, including her 18-year-old brother's shooting. Since the Alabama shootings, there have been questions about why Bishop did not face any charges in Massachusetts a quarter-century ago. After shooting her brother, she fled the house and allegedly pointed the gun at people at a nearby auto body shop. In Bishop's only public comments since the Alabama shootings, the professor said they "didn't happen. There's no way." □



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U.S. Marines seize Taliban headquarters, IDs, photos



This 2007 wanted poster provided Bagram Air Base shows Siraj Haqqani, leader of the Haqqani group faction. A suspected CIA missile attack killed Haqqani's brother Mohammed Haqqani in the North Waziristan area near the Afghan border Pakistan intelligence officials said Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, the latest in a series of strikes against the heart of the insurgent movement's leadership. Siraj Haqqani was the apparent target of the Thursday attack

Associated Press

ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU

Associated Press Writer

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP) — After a fierce gunfight, U.S. Marines seized a strongly defended compound that appears to have been a Taliban headquarters — complete with photos

of fighters posing with their weapons, dozens of Taliban-issued ID cards and graduation diplomas from a training camp in Pakistan.

Insurgents who had been using the field office just south of Marjah's town center abandoned it by the end of Friday's fighting, as Marines converged on them from all sides, escalating operations to break resistance in this Taliban stronghold in southern Helmand province.

Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines fought their way south from the town center Friday after residents told them that several dozen insurgent fighters had regrouped in the area. Throughout the day, small groups of Taliban marksmen tried to slow the advance with rifle fire as they slowly fell back in face of the Marine assault.

"They know that they are outnumbered ... and that in the end they don't have the firepower to compete with us conventionally," said Capt. Joshua Winfrey of Tulsa, Oklahoma, commander of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines.

As the Marines advanced, they found rows of abandoned bunkers dug alongside an irrigation canal that the Taliban had used to fire on them the day before. Located at a crossroads, the five abandoned bunkers, camouflaged under a layer of mud, looked out across an open field. In the near distance, large stones had been set up to help the Taliban site in on their targets.

Just behind the bunkers, the Marines found a compound, surrounded by a mudbrick wall, typical of family homes in the town.

Inside the compound, where a few

chickens still wandered, Marines uncovered dozens of Taliban-issued ID cards, official Taliban letterhead stationery and government stamps.

They also found graduation diplomas from an insurgent training camp in Baluchistan, an area of southern Pakistan that borders Helmand province, along with photos of fighters posing with AK-47 assault rifles.

The insurgents had fled with their weapons and ammunition. The Marines said they'd been coming under fire all day — but never saw any of the elusive gunmen, who retreated to resume hit-and-run tactics using snipers and small gun squads to harass Marine lines. Lima Company's advance was part of a move by several Marine companies to converge on a pocket of Taliban fighters from all four directions. The Marines believe they've cornered what appeared to be a significant Taliban fighting force. "It seems that it's their last stand," Winfrey said.

NATO said one service member died Friday in a small-arms attack but did not identify the victim by nationality.

Six coalition troops were killed Thursday, NATO said, making it the deadliest day since the offensive began Feb. 13. The death toll for the operation stands at 12 NATO troops and one Afghan soldier. Britain's Defense Ministry said three British soldiers were among those killed Thursday.

No precise figures on Taliban deaths have been released, but senior Marine officers say intelligence reports suggest more than 120 have died. The officers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the

information.

The Marjah offensive is the biggest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and a test of President Barack Obama's strategy for reversing the rise of the Taliban while protecting civilians.

Marjah, 360 miles southwest of Kabul, has an estimated population of 80,000 and had been under Taliban control for years.

Before dawn on Saturday, about two dozen elite Marines were dropped by helicopter into an area where skilled Taliban marksmen were known to operate, an officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.

A NATO statement said troops were still meeting "some resistance" from insurgents and that homemade bombs remained the key threat.

At a briefing in London, Maj. Gen. Gordon Messenger said the militant holdouts don't threaten the overall offensive but will take time to clear out.

"The levels of resistance in these areas has increased but not beyond expectation. We expected after the enemy had time to catch its breath, they would up the level of resistance, and that's happened," he said.

As U.S. and Afghan troops moved south Friday, they continued to sweep through houses, searching for bombs and questioning residents.

One man came forward and revealed a Taliban position a mile (1.6 kilometers) away. The man, who was not identified for security reasons, said he was angry because insurgents had earlier taken over his home.

He gave U.S. forces detailed information, saying more than a dozen Taliban fighters were waiting to ambush troops there. The position was rigged with dozens of homemade bombs and booby-traps, he said.

Outside of Marjah, U.S. and Afghan troops, backed by Stryker infantry vehicles, pushed into a section of mud-walled compounds that had been occupied by the Taliban in the Badula Qulp region, northeast of town.

Hit with small arms fire, the troops retaliated with machine guns and fired off a missile at a house where insurgents were believed to be hiding, and the militants quickly withdrew. □



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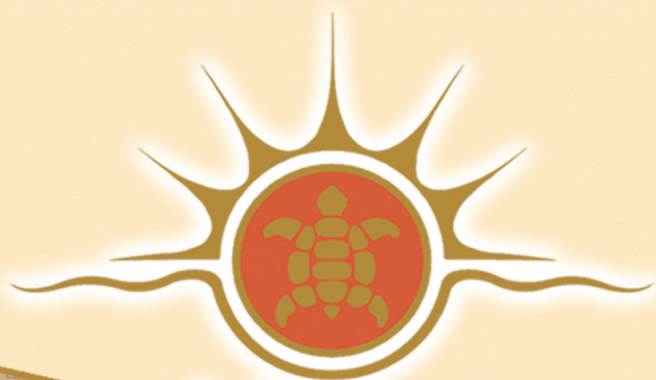
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Egypt: Hundreds welcome return of ex-nuclear boss

HADEEL AL-SHALCHI
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of supporters greeted former U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei at the airport upon return to his native Egypt on Friday, singing songs, chanting pro-reform slogans and calling on the Nobel prize winner to run for president. ElBaradei touched down in Cairo Friday evening for the first time since leaving his post as head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Association after 12 years in office. Supporters hope to use the publicity to boost speculation about his potential candidacy for 2011 elections.

Egypt has been ruled for nearly 30 years by Hosni Mubarak, who appears to be trying to set up a political dynasty by grooming his son to succeed him.

Respected worldwide and untouched by the corruption tainting much of Egypt's current regime, ElBaradei, who won the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, could be the most credible opposition leader to emerge as this U.S.-allied country prepares for 2011

presidential elections.

And many Egyptians hope ElBaradei's international standing will make it difficult for the current government to persecute him for trying to bring reform to the country.

The crowd at the airport — made up of actors, intellectuals, opposition leaders, and regular Egyptians — broke into loud applause when word of ElBaradei's arrival spread, and then sang the Egyptian national anthem. Many supporters carried large posters with ElBaradei's face and the word "YES!" signifying their desire to see him run for president.

Bloggers and activists followed his arrival with a live stream on the Internet of what was happening on the ground at the airport.

ElBaradei tried to leave the VIP lounge at the airport shortly after his arrival, but the sheer size of the crowd blocked the exit of the lounge and prevented him. He was briefly glimpsed getting into a car and driving off, waving to his supporters through the car window.

Despite the enthusiasm his return has sparked among many Egyptians hungry for change, ElBaradei has been guarded about a potential



Egyptian supporters surround former U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei as he arrives at Cairo, airport, Egypt, Friday, Feb. 19, 2010. ElBaradei returns home for a visit Friday, expressing high hopes he might challenge the longtime Egyptian president for power and usher in an era of democratic reform in the country.

Associated Press

presidential run.

In an open letter responding to an effort by young Egyptians urging him to run for president, he said he would only join the race if guaranteed that elections would be free, fully

supervised by the judiciary and monitored by the international community.

He also wants the constitution amended to remove restrictions on who is eligible to run.

Mexico ups salaries for drug war soldiers



A federal police officer controls the traffic near the crime scene where three men were shot to death by a gunman in Tijuana, Mexico, late Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010. Drug violence has surged in many parts of Mexico since President Felipe Calderon deployed thousands of troops in 2006 to crush powerful cartels. More than 15,000 people have been killed in gang violence since.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Felipe Calderon's government is raising salaries for his drug war's soldiers and marines.

Troops will be paid \$77 more a month — adding to starting pay of a little more than \$600, Calderon announced during a ceremony Friday to honor the military. He Calderon said salaries have doubled since he took office in 2006. □



Canadian school ship sinks off Brazil; all rescued

BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press Writer

In this in this July 24, 2000 photo, the Canadian tall ship SV Concordia heads past downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. The SV Concordia, filled with high school and college students, sank off the coast of Brazil Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010 in strong winds, but officials said all 64 people aboard were rescued Friday after about 16 hours in rafts tossed by rough seas.

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Canadian sailing ship filled with high school and college students sank off the coast of Brazil in strong winds, but officials said all 64 people aboard were rescued Friday after about 16 hours in rafts tossed by rough seas.

A distress signal was picked up from the three-masted SV Concordia about 5 p.m. (2 p.m. EST; 1900 GMT) Thursday, Brazil's Navy said in a statement and an Air Force plane later spotted life rafts floating in the ocean about 300 miles (500 kilometers) off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

Forty-eight students — in grades 11, 12 and university freshmen — were aboard the vessel, said Kate Knight, head of West Island College International of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, which operates the Class Afloat program.

Edgardo Ybranez, captain of the Philippine flagged Hokuetsu Delight cargo ship, told The Associated Press via satellite phone that his ship rescued 44 of the victims in rough, dangerous seas. The remaining people were picked up by another ship.

Ybranez said the Concordia's doctor had suffered an injury before the rescue, "but he is

OK now." He gave no more details.

All the rest were unhurt, Ybranez said: "You can tell their parents that everything is OK; everybody aboard my ship is fine."

The captain declined to put one of the survivors on the telephone. "They are all downstairs sleeping because they are exhausted, so I don't want to call any of them up," he said before cutting off the call to communicate with his employers.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement thanking the Brazilian Navy and the merchant crews "for their swift and heroic response."

"The skill and compassion demonstrated by Brazilian rescuers is a tribute to their training, spirit and seamanship," he said.

School officials said 42 of those aboard were from Canada. Knight said others hail from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Europe and the West Indies.

"At this point we can't confirm at all what circumstances led them to abandon ship, or the status of the vessel," she said.

The Brazilian Navy, however,

said the ship sank and Juan Cruz Margarita, captain of the SE Stao Knutsen that assisted in the rescue operation, told the AP via satellite phone he saw no sign of the Canadian ship by the time his vessel arrived.

Navy spokeswoman Maria Padilha said the students spent up to 16 hours on life boats before they were rescued between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. (2 a.m. and 7 a.m. EST; 0600 and 1100 GMT). She said the students would be moved to a Navy ship and taken to Rio.

Padilha said rough weather in the area had so far prevented their transfer to the Brazilian ship. Under the best conditions, she said, it would take at least 12 hours for the Navy ship to reach Rio.

Shelley Piller, whose 17-year-old stepdaughter Elysha was on board, told the AP in a telephone interview from Kenilworth, Ontario, that she was worried despite hearing news that everyone was safe.

"That's my kid. For me I need to actually physically see her, feel her and have her in front of me to understand that she's safe," Piller said. "We're petrified, absolutely petrified."

The ship had visited Europe and Africa since leaving Canada in September, and it had just begun a five-month semester program on leaving Recife in Brazil's northeast on Feb. 8. It was scheduled to dock in Montevideo, Uruguay on Tuesday, then head on to several islands in the Atlantic and to southern Africa and the Caribbean before returning to Canada.

The school's Web site says the 188-foot-long (57.5-meter-long) Concordia was built in 1992 and "meets all of the international requirements for safety." It carries up to 66 passengers and crew and also can operate under motor power.

The college's Web site says it gives high school and college students the chance to study while sailing the world. Tuition is listed as being 42,500 Canadian dollars (\$40,600) a year for students in the 11th and 12th grades and in university. □

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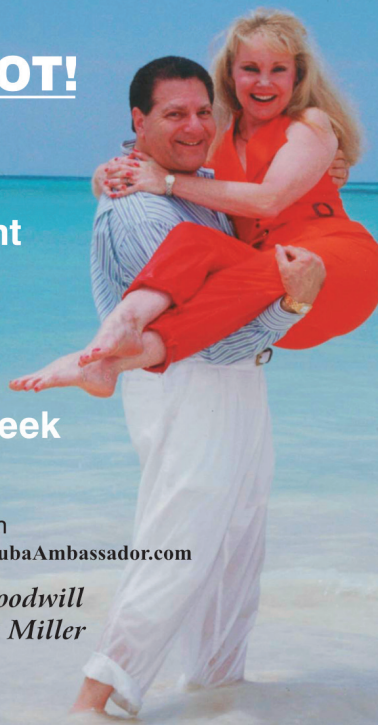


Photo by Diane Keijzer

Minaret falls during prayers in Morocco mosque , 36 dead

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — A minaret collapsed during Friday prayers — killing 36 people and injuring 71 — at a crowded mosque in the old town of the historic Moroccan city of Meknes, the official MAP news agency said.

Officials blamed the accident on heavy rain that had weakened the minaret at the Bab Berdieynne Mosque, according to a statement released by the Interior Ministry.

King Mohammed VI sent the interior minister and religious affairs minister to Meknes, a UNESCO heritage city and one of Morocco's four imperial cities, some 120 kilometers (62 miles) east of the capital Rabat.

The officials visited some of the injured at hospitals in Meknes. The more seriously injured were taken to hospitals in the nearby city of Fes. A team of psychologists also was sent.

The old town of Meknes is a pedestrian zone, which made rescue efforts more difficult. MAP, citing official sources,

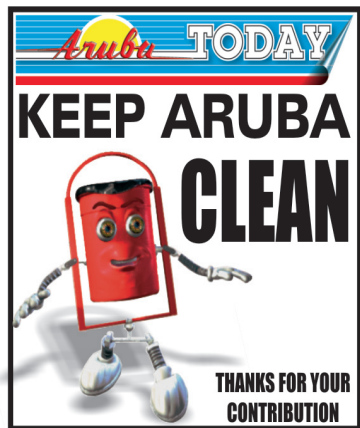
said hospitals had already released 51 people, but were still treating 20 injured victims.

The king has ordered the reconstruction of the mosque, which was built four centuries ago under Sultan Moulay Ismail, who made Meknes his capital.

Heavy rain battered the city Friday, and more rain has been forecast for the next week. □

In this frame from TV rescuers are at the scene after a minaret collapsed during Friday prayers at a crowded mosque in the old town of the historic Moroccan city of Meknes, killing dozens of people and injuring dozens more, the Interior Ministry said Friday Feb 19 2010.

Associated Press



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FILE - In this March 3, 2009 file photo, actor Sean Penn talks during a press conference lobbying the state of California to recognize Harvey Milk Day in San Francisco.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, file)

Sean Penn charged with battery in Los Angeles

By **ANTHONY MCCARTNEY**,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Actor-director Sean Penn was charged Friday with battery and vandalism charges stemming from an altercation with a photographer in Brentwood last fall.

Penn will be arraigned March 22 on the two misdemeanor charges, said Los Angeles city attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan.

A phone message for Penn's attorney, Barry Hirsch, was not immediately returned.

Penn will not be required to appear in court if he is represented by an attorney. Mateljan said Penn kicked a photographer during a dustup in October. The photographer's camera also was damaged. The incident was captured on a

video posted by celebrity Web site TMZ.com in which Penn is seen kicking at a photographer and repeatedly telling the photographer to "get out."

If convicted, Penn could face up to 18 months in jail.

Penn is the latest actor charged in Los Angeles for altercations with the paparazzi. Charges against rapper Kanye West and actor Gerard Butler were recently dismissed after both men completed community service after scuffles with celebrity photographers.

West, who was charged after breaking a photographer's flash at Los Angeles International Airport in September 2008, also paid for the broken equipment.

Penn has won two best actor Oscars for roles in "Mystic River" and "Milk."

During the 1980s, he had several run-ins

with photographers and a movie extra that resulted in a short jail stint. One of the incidents involved allegations Penn assaulted two photographers in Nashville, Tenn., in 1987. He pleaded no contest and received a suspended sentence.

The same year he received a 60-day jail sentence for punching an extra while filming "Colors." He was on probation at the time for hitting a man he thought tried to kiss his wife, singer Madonna.

Penn has remained out of legal troubles in recent years but has had a rocky relationship with his wife, Robin Wright Penn. They are currently involved in divorce proceedings in Northern California, although they have agreed on how to divide property. They had previously filed for divorce or separation twice before. □

Rap star says Romney first touched him on plane



In this Jan. 31, 2010 photo, Sky Blu, whose given name is Skyler Gordy of the band LMFAO, is seen while hosting the pre-telecast at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

By **GLEN JOHNSON**,
AP Political Writer

BOSTON — A rapper with the Grammy-nominated club act LMFAO says former Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney first touched him — and not the other way around — during a confrontation aboard an Air Canada flight that was preparing to take off from Vancouver, British Columbia. Sky Blu, whose given name is Skyler Gordy, says in a video posted Friday on TMZ.com that he was trying to go to sleep when he leaned his seat back in the coach section of a the Vancouver-to-Los Angeles flight Monday. He says Romney loudly told him several times to straighten it,

as is required until takeoff under commercial flight regulations.

Then, he says, Romney reached forward and grabbed his shoulder.

"I just react — boom — get off me, you know," Gordy says in the video, taking a swing through the air as he speaks. "And I didn't take it any further than that. I just wanted the man not to touch me; that's it."

Gordy says that Romney's wife, Ann, screamed and that the plane returned to the gate before two police officers escorted him off. After being detained briefly, he was allowed to buy a ticket for another flight.

Romney spokesman Eric Fehrstrom had no comment Friday about whether Gordy was the man with whom Romney had the confrontation, but aides said this week that Romney told them he thought the other person was in a band.

Christine Wolff at Interscope Records confirmed that Gordy made the video, which also was posted on the group's Web site.

Air Canada referred calls to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Sgt. Rob Vermeulen confirmed there was an incident on the flight, but he refused to release the names of those involved because no one was arrested. □



FILE - In this Feb. 10, 2008 file photo, singer Kelis, left, and Nas pose on the press line at the Entertainment Weekly Island Def Jam Grammy party in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg, file)

Nas pleads not guilty to contempt in divorce case

LOS ANGELES — Nas faces a criminal contempt charge for unpaid child and spousal support in his divorce from fellow singer Kelis (kehl-EES').

The rapper pleaded not guilty through his attorney and was ordered back for a March hearing in Los Angeles.

Kelis' attorney says Nas (NAHZ) is \$200,000 behind on child and spousal support. He was ordered to pay more than \$51,000 per month to his former wife and infant son in December.

Judge David S. Cunningham III, who is overseeing the divorce proceedings, said Friday it's starting to look like the rapper is trying to evade court orders. □

Snipes asks 'What's new?' about IRS plane crash

By **MICHAEL WEINFELD**,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Actor Wesley Snipes, who has tax problems of his own, had a blunt reaction to news about a software engineer who crashed his plane into an office building with nearly 200 IRS employees inside.

In an interview Friday with the Associated Press, Snipes asked, "What's new?"

Authorities say A. Joseph Stack III, who was furious with the Internal Revenue Service, crashed his plane into an Austin, Texas, building on Thursday. Stack and one other person were killed.

Snipes said tax problems have been an issue in the U.S. from the very beginning.

As the actor put it: "I think it was an issue even for the early colonists and the British, so what's new?"

Snipes, 47, was convicted in 2008 of not paying taxes for three years. He was sentenced to three years in prison and is appealing.

Despite his legal troubles, Snipes said, "All is very well. We're very positive, we're very confident that things will work out to our benefit and to our favor."

He brushed off the experience as just another part of living. "These are the bumps and bruises of life. They build



FILE - In a Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 file photo, U.S. actor Wesley Snipes poses during the photo call for the film 'Brooklyn's Finest' at the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. Snipes, who has tax problems of his own, isn't surprised to hear about the software engineer who crashed his plane into an office building with nearly 200 IRS employees.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, File)

character and you learn from it as you move on."

Snipes says he still doesn't understand why the IRS pursued him.

He added, "I'm not a politician, I'm not saving the world, I haven't created a cure for cancer, I make movies ..."

In 2006, "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch was convicted of not paying his taxes and spent more than three years in jail. He complained that the IRS used him as an example. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks edge higher after Fed eases bank supports



FILE - In this Feb. 9, 2010 file photo, Steven Kaplan, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks turned higher Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, after investors found good news in the Federal Reserve's decision to begin dismantling emergency lending measures for banks.

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**
and **IEVA M. AUGSTUMS**,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market ended a strong week with modest gains after investors found good news in the Federal Reserve's decision to begin dismantling emergency lending measures for banks.

The market initially fell in response to the Fed's announcement late Thursday that it is raising the rate it charges banks for emergency loans, known as the discount rate. Stocks regained some ground and traded mixed as investors saw the Fed's move as a vote of confidence that the financial system was recovering and that banks didn't need as much support as they used to.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

"The Fed certainly isn't exiting the easy money policy door yet," said Burt White, chief investment officer at LPL Financial. "They have their coats and boots on."

The central bank didn't change its more widely used federal funds rate, which is a benchmark for short-term interest rates.

Jay Leupp, president of Grubb & Ellis AGA mutual funds, said it was "inevitable" that the Fed would raise the discount rate. However the timing and size of future rate hikes for both the discount rate and the federal funds rate are still up in the air, he said.

"It's a warning sign, but don't expect more to happen soon," Leupp said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 9.45, or 0.1

percent, to 10,402.35, its highest finish in a month. The Dow is now down only 0.25 percent for the year.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.42, or 0.2 percent, to 1,109.17, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 2.16, or 0.1 percent, to 2,243.87.

Three stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.1 billion shares, compared with 960 million Thursday.

For the week, the Dow rose 303 points, or 3 percent. The S&P 500 index rose 3.1 percent, while the Nasdaq gained 2.8 percent. U.S. markets were closed Monday for President's Day.

Bond prices rose, pushing yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell 3.78 percent from 3.81 percent late Thursday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies. Gold and oil both rose.

On Friday, the markets slowed at 11 a.m. as traders watched golfer Tiger Woods' televised remarks about his recent affairs. Volume on the New York Stock Exchange leveled off during Woods' remarks, then picked up momentum after he was finished.

Stock in Nike Inc., one of Woods' biggest sponsors, was down about 19 cents as he spoke, then regained some ground. It ended down 9 cents at \$64.35. A tame report on consumer prices helped the market. The Labor Department said the Consumer Price Index rose by a smaller-than-expected 0.2 percent in January. Excluding food and energy, the index actually slipped 0.1 percent, its first monthly drop in 27 years. □



FILE - In this March 24, 2009 file photo, a sign lies on the ground in front of a foreclosed home in Homestead, Fla. The number of borrowers falling behind on their mortgage payments dropped sharply at the end of 2009, a sign the foreclosure crisis is beginning to ebb.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter, File)

Report: Fewer people falling behind on home loans

By **ALAN ZIBEL**,
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON — The end of the foreclosure crisis is finally in sight. For the first time in almost three years, the number of homeowners falling behind on their loans is declining.

The drop means the number of people losing their homes will start to fall. But some pain from the crisis is sure to persist. Because millions of people are already in foreclosure, deeply discounted houses will put pressure on home prices for years.

"Housing is on a path to recovery," said Mike Larson, a real estate analyst with Weiss Research. "It's going to be a very long, gradual process."

In high-foreclosure cities like Las Vegas, Phoenix and Miami, homes have lost roughly half their values from their peaks. But a report Friday from the Mortgage Bankers Association showed Nevada, Arizona and Florida had some of the biggest declines in new delinquencies.

The figures probably mark "the beginning of the end" of the crisis, said Jay Brinkmann, the trade group's chief economist. However, more than 15 percent of homeowners with a mortgage have missed at least one payment or are in foreclosure, a record. Worse, nearly half of all delinquent borrowers were at least three months behind on their payments, up from a typical level of less than 20 percent.

"The bad news is that we still have a big problem," Brinkmann said. "The good news is it looks like it may not get much bigger."

That's because the percentage of borrowers who missed just one payment on their home loans fell to 3.6 percent in the October-to-December quarter from 3.8 percent in the third quarter, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. That decline was even more surprising because delinquencies usually rise at that time of year due to higher heating bills and holiday spending.

In another encouraging sign, the number of borrowers who had missed at least one payment but were not yet in foreclosure also fell for the first time since the beginning of 2007. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



MLB bans guns from clubhouses

RONALD BLUM,

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball has a new message for players and employees this spring training: Keep guns, long knives and explosives out of the clubhouse.

Signs have been placed in spring training locker rooms stating “individuals are prohibited from possessing deadly weapons while performing any services for MLB.” The rules apply to employees of the commissioner’s office, other central MLB businesses and to teams, including players.

A MLB official said the league developed the rules last year after former NFL star Plaxico Burress accidentally shot himself, which led to a two-year prison sentence. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because comments



Clubhouse manager Harvey Hodgerney hangs up jerseys in lockers inside the San Francisco Giants clubhouse for spring training baseball at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010. The first workout for Giants pitchers and catchers is on Thursday.

weren’t authorized.

Guns became a controversy in the NBA this season, when Washington guard Gilbert Arenas was suspended indefinitely without pay by

Associated Press

commissioner David Stern. Arenas took guns to the Verizon Center; the NBA labor contract bans weapons at league facilities.

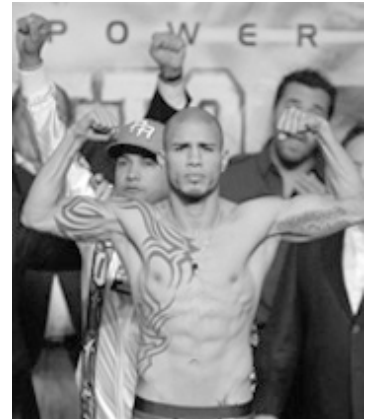
NewMLBPlayers’Association

head Michael Weiner said the rules were put in place last season but the signs were not posted until now.

“The commissioner’s office negotiated the policy with the union, as it applies to players,” he said. “The content of the notice itself was not agreed to by the union.”

Titled “Major League Baseball’s Weapon-Free Workplace Policy,” it says MLB “shall prohibit the possession or use of deadly weapons in any facility or venue owned, operated, or controlled by it.” Included are “firearms, explosives, daggers, metal knuckles, switchblade knives, and knives having blades exceeding 5 inches.”

Security and law enforcement are excluded, and possession in parking lots is allowed if protected by local laws. Major League Baseball said it was allowed to grant exceptions □



This Nov. 13, 2009, file photo shows Miguel Cotto, right, of Puerto Rico, posing with his trainer Jose Santiago during the weigh-in for his WBO boxing welterweight title fight against Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, in Las Vegas.

Yanks clearup issue standing in way of June fight

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Boxing could be finally returning to Yankee Stadium, more than three decades after Muhammad Ali fought Ken Norton at the old ballpark in the Bronx.

The Yankees said Friday they’ve agreed to accommodate a family that scheduled a bar mitzvah for June 5, the date that Top Rank promoter Bob Arum wants to stage Yuri Foreman’s junior middleweight title defense against Miguel Cotto at the opulent ballpark. It wasn’t clear what accommodations were made, although the bar mitzvah for Scott Ballan is still scheduled.

Ballan is the son of Jon Ballan, the lead bond lawyer for the financing of the \$1.5 billion stadium. As part of the bar mitzvah, the Yankees had promised the family use of the Legends Suite Club and videoboard in center field, which would have prevented its use during the fight card.

Continued on Page 14



Venus Williams of the U.S. reacts after scoring a point against Israel’s Shahar Peer during the Semifinals of the Emirates Dubai WTA Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates Friday, Feb. 9, 2010.

Associated Press

BARBARA SURK

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Venus Williams will defend her Dubai Championships title in the final against Victoria Azarenka after ending the stirring run of Israel’s Shahar

Venus to defend Dubai title in final vs Azarenka

Peer 6-1, 6-4 on Friday.

Azarenka blistered Agnieszka Radwanska 6-3, 6-4 in the other semifinal at Aviation Club.

“I am definitely pleased to be in the final,” Williams said.

“I wondered how I would feel playing against her, if I would feel the pressure she might feel. But once I was on the court, I was just focused.”

Peer’s movements in Dubai have been restricted to the court and a hotel due to organizers’ security concerns. The Israeli, who was last year denied a visa by the United Arab Emirates authorities, was surrounded by guards and played on the most secure court — not Centre Court — all week. Despite this, she beat three seeds, including No. 1

Caroline Wozniacki.

“I cannot even speak of what it must be like (for her),” Williams added. “She played so well this week.”

Williams agreed to defend her title this year only if the Israeli player was admitted to the Emirates. That earned gratitude from Peer.

“I told her I really appreciate her support this week and last year,” Peer said, adding that Williams took the decision to move Friday’s match to a side court gracefully.

Peer’s defensive approach failed to slow Williams, who raced to a 4-0 lead in the first set.

Peer won the fifth game against serve, but Williams quickly extinguished the Israeli’s hopes of a comeback by taking

the final two games to win the set in just 23 minutes.

In the second, the players traded breaks early before Williams secured a decisive second break in the seventh game.

Williams then survived five break points in the following game to go 5-3 up, and served out.

“She started very strong. She was all over me,” Peer said. “I felt like I had no time in the points. I think I played a very good second set. I missed one or two chances, but overall it was good tennis.”

Peer downplayed the controversy that resulted in a \$300,000 fine for the Dubai tournament last year, saying she was pleased with how the week had gone. □

Svindal, Bjoergen increase Norway's gold haul to 5

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Aksel Lund Svindal continued Norway's dominance in the Olympic super-G on Friday, depriving Bode Miller of a maiden gold medal in the process.

The imposing Svindal won in 1 minute, 30.34 seconds, leaving American teammates Miller and Andrew Weibrecht behind for silver and bronze, respectively. It was Norway's fourth gold medal in seven races since the discipline was added to the Olympic program at the 1988 Calgary Games.

"It's been a lot of work getting to where I need to be for winning races," said the 27-year-old Svindal, who took silver behind Didier Defago of Switzerland in the downhill on Sunday and is peaking at the right time after a difficult season trying to defend his overall World Cup title.

Marit Bjoergen became the first double gold medalist of the games soon after with victory in the women's 15-kilometer cross-country pursuit, lifting Norway to second spot on the medal standings with five golds. The Americans lead with six.

Bjoergen, a four-time world champion, is still coming to terms with multiple trips to the top of the podium after winning only silver medals at the 2002 and 2006 Olympics.

"I knew that I was in great shape, but to take two golds, I never dreamed about it," said Bjoergen, who won the individual classical sprint on Wednesday. "It still hasn't dawned on me."

Svindal's silver medal in the downhill gave him extra confidence in a challenging, icy course.

"For sure it took some pressure off," he said. "I felt like it was the last thing I was thinking at the start gate, 'You already have a silver and it can only get better so



Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway, center, winner of the Men's super-G event, celebrates with second placed Bode Miller of the United States, left, and third placed Andrew Weibrecht of the United States, at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

Associated Press



LEFT: Gold medallist Evan Lysacek of the USA, center, silver medallist Evgeni Plushenko of Russia, left, and bronze medallist Daisuke Takahashi of Japan, partially visible at right, pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the men's figure skating competition at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010; and Norway's Marit Bjoergen, right, celebrates winning the gold medal as she skis on the finish straight during the Women's individual 15k pursuit Cross Country race at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

Associated Press



enjoy this and give it all you have. Don't hold anything back."

Kjetil Andre Aamodt won the super-G in 1992, 2002 and 2006 and was at the finish doing commentary for Norwegian TV when Svindal raced down the bumpy Dave Murray course.

Austria didn't get anyone into the top 10 and Switzerland's best placing was Carlo Janka in eighth. Swedish veteran Patrik Jaerbyn crashed and had a "mild to moderate concussion" and some cuts

on his face, according to Sweden team physician Per Liljeholm.

The 32-year-old Miller was 0.28 seconds behind Svindal for silver, his fourth Olympic medal making him the most decorated American Alpine skier in history. He has yet to win a gold.

Weibrecht was 0.31 behind Svindal for third, a surprise considering he'd never finished better than 10th in a World Cup event.

Russia, among the medal favorites in Vancouver,

still languishes with one gold on Day 8, much to the astonishment of figure skater Evgeni Plushenko and even Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Plushenko was unhappy with his silver, saying the gold medal awarded to American skater Evan Lysacek on Thursday "raises questions" about the judging.

Plushenko, who retired after winning gold at the 2006 Turin Olympics and is only a few months into a comeback, landed a quadruple jump.

Lysacek didn't attempt a quad.

Putin reportedly sent a message to Plushenko saying the "superb performance" was worthy of a gold medal. But Lysacek remained confident Friday that his program was strong enough that he didn't need a quad to beat Plushenko, who led after the short program.

Other medals Friday included the final skeleton runs for men and women, where Amy Williams of Britain was in gold medal position after three runs.

The defending champion Swedish men's hockey team avoided repeating the monumental loss from the 2002 Salt Lake Games, scoring in the last 10 seconds to hold on for a 4-2 win over Belarus that was a lot closer than it needed to be.

Men's bobsled will be missing one of its favorites after World Cup champion Beat Hefti of Switzerland withdrew from the two-man competition because of a concussion sustained during a training crash.

Japanese pair Noriaki Kasai and Daiki Ito led ski jumping qualifying on the large hill. Normal hill gold medalist Simon Ammann pre-qualified for Saturday's final, when he'll be able to wear the ski bindings that sparked a protest from the Austrian delegation. The International Ski Federation rejected the Austrian claim that the bindings gave Ammann an aerodynamic advantage.

"We didn't expect anything else," Ammann said. "We knew it was within the regulations. The system has been used within the last two years and other guys have used it from Austria as well." □



NBA Roundup

Melo has 40 as Nuggets end Cavs' 13-game streak

CLEVELAND (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 40 points, including the winning basket, as the Denver Nuggets ended the Cleveland Cavaliers' 13-game NBA winnings streak with a 118-116 victory in overtime Thursday.

Cleveland lost despite LeBron James having a triple-double by the end of regulation, finishing with 43 points, 13 rebounds and 15 assists.

Anthony matched him shot for shot, hitting the winner on a deep jumper over an outstretched James with 1.9 seconds left to give Denver a win that opened a 1-1/2 game lead atop the Northwest Division.

Kenyon Martin had 18 points and a season-high 17 rebounds for the Nuggets, who had plenty of motivation to begin the second half of its season with a win.

Nuggets coach George Karl was on the bench despite battling nausea and headaches in recent days as a result of chemotherapy. Karl coached his first game since disclosing Tuesday he has neck and throat cancer.



Olympic gold medal basketball co-captains LeBron James, of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Carmelo Anthony are honored before the Cavaliers play the Denver Nuggets in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, in Cleveland. West and Robertson were co-captains of the 1960 United States Olympic gold medal basketball team. James and Anthony were the 2008 United States Olympic gold medal basketball team co-captains.

Associated Press

The Cavaliers had a chance to win it at the buzzer, but James slipped while receiving the inbound pass and his 3-pointer rattled off the rim. An exhausted James, who played 47 minutes, missed his final four shots in overtime. His triple-double was the third of the season and 27th of his

career. His 15 assists tied a career high.

Cleveland made just 23 of 40 free throws.

The Cavaliers were undermanned since they traded Zydrunas Ilgauskas on Wednesday and didn't yet have Antawn Jamison available — the player they

received in return from Washington in the three-team deal. The Cavs introduced Jamison on Thursday, but he wasn't activated in time for the game. The team is hopeful he can be in the lineup Friday at Charlotte.

Celtics 87, Lakers 86

In Los Angeles, Ray Allen

scored 12 of his 24 points in the third quarter and made 10 of his first 11 shots as Boston edged Los Angeles.

It was the defending NBA champions' first loss in five games since Kobe Bryant sustained a sprained left ankle.

Kendrick Perkins had 13 points and 14 assists for the Celtics, who were busy before gametime. They acquired guard Nate Robinson and Marcus Landry from the New York Knicks in exchange for Eddie House, J.R. Giddens, Bill Walker and a future conditional second-round draft pick.

Paul Gasol scored 22 points to lead Los Angeles.

The Lakers had won the previous three meetings with the Celtics after losing the 2008 finals to them in six games.

On Thursday they led 84-80 in the fourth quarter but went 4 minutes, 48 seconds without a basket to cede the lead. The Laker had one final opportunity on the buzzer, but Derek Fisher missed a 21-footer. □



This Nov. 14, 2009, file photo shows fight promoter Bob Arum, right, raising the hand of boxer Yuri Foreman, from Brooklyn, N.Y., after Foreman won his WBA super welterweight boxing title fight by unanimous decision against Daniel Santos, from Puerto Rico, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

JUNE FIGHT

Continued from Page 12

"We want to thank Jon Ballan and his family for their graciousness, understanding and good will in helping to accommodate the Yankees," the team said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"We will now meet with Bob Arum and his organization to continue discussions to bring this fight to Yankee Stadium." The promoters plan to meet with Yankees officials next week.

While the contracts for the fight have yet to be signed, Foreman said he was thrilled about the possibility of fighting in one of the most hallowed venues in sports.

"It's a tremendous opportunity. It's something I've never ever dreamed," he said Friday. "It's where Joe Louis fought Max Schmeling, you know? For me to be fighting in Yankee Stadium is historical, being part of the history."

Yankee Stadium would likely

be configured for about 30,000 fans if the fighters and venue agree to terms, although the precise logistics are unclear. When fights were staged at the old stadium, the ring was set up just beyond second base with floor seating radiating out in four directions, and additional seating in the stands and upper decks. Foreman, who is studying to become a rabbi, was born in Belarus but now makes his home in New York. And just in case anybody was curious, Foreman made it clear he's a Yankees fan.

"It's a little bit surreal," he said. "But I've also had faith in God always being there, and sure that I knew God was going to help me, give me a hand. It's incredible."

Yankee Stadium has a proud tradition of hosting fights.

Rocky Marciano defeated Ezzard Charles and Archie Moore there, and nearly 40,000 turned out to see Willie Pep fight Sandy Saddler. Sugar Ray Robinson was done in by

the heat against Joey Maxim in 1952, then by Carmen Basilio five years later in Ring Magazine's Fight of the Year. Louis fought at Yankee Stadium a dozen times, against the likes of Max Baer, Primo Carnera and Schmeling — the latter generating worldwide attention as the Nazis came to power. "I think for the sport it's a wonderful opportunity," Top Rank president Todd duBoef said. "Yankee Stadium always being a hub for fights, much like Madison Square Garden, it's wonderful for everything to circle back around."

Arum promoted the final bout at the old Yankee Stadium across 161st Street when Ali fought Norton on Sept. 28, 1976. Arum has approached the club several times over the past three decades about staging another event at the stadium, but George Steinbrenner and club brass had always been tepid about erecting a ring and seating on the immaculate infield grass. □

Lebron James is the prize on NBA trade day

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

The Cleveland Cavaliers hope they are in a better position to keep LeBron James after Thursday's NBA trading deadline, while the New York Knicks are in better position for a run at him — and a second superstar, too.

The Knicks acquired former scoring champion Tracy McGrady on Thursday in a three-team swap with the Houston Rockets and the Sacramento Kings. The deal left them on the verge of being able to offer two maximum salary contracts to the 2010 free agent class that could be headlined by James.

Amare Stoudemire could be in the market for one if he decides to leave Phoenix — where he'll again finish the season after spending the weeks before the deadline atop the trade rumor mill.

"I've maintained that unless there was something out there that improved our team and put us in a lot better position moving forward, then we weren't going to do anything. And that was the case," Suns general manager Steve Kerr said.

Chicago, Washington and Sacramento all cleared enough salary to be able to afford a big-name free agent, and the Los Angeles Clippers got close.

The Cavaliers gave James more reason to stay home. They acquired forward Antawn Jamison on Wednesday, a deal that could make the Eastern Conference leaders even

stronger.

"We're trying to build a franchise that all players want to be a part of, that can have sustainable success and do things at a high level," general manager Danny Ferry said. "Clearly LeBron's an important player for Northeast Ohio, for Cleveland, for the Cavaliers. It's all ground in winning, too. Antawn can help us win. We're excited what he can bring to us over the next few years."

The Knicks can afford James and perhaps someone else in the class that could include Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

By including Jared Jeffries in the deal for McGrady, whose \$22.5 million contract expires after this season, the Knicks removed \$6.9 million from next season's payroll and left them with about \$32 million in salary cap space. Those top free agents would each earn a little more than \$16.5 million in the first season of a max deal.

"This gives us flexibility — a lot of flexibility in a lot of different directions," Knicks president Donnie Walsh said. "I know everybody is focused on individual players, but we're not. We're focused on putting together the best team we can. So that takes a lot of different directions and we have a lot of time to figure out which way we're going to go, but it is a lot of cap space."

In the meantime, the Knicks hope McGrady can lead them into the playoff race. He's only played six games

this season after returning from knee surgery, but is convinced he has plenty left.

"I can't wait to get back on the court to continue doing what I love to do," McGrady said in a statement on his Web site. "I am excited to be headed to New York and look forward to wearing a Knick uniform. I know that I can and will contribute to this organization. It's a dream to play in New York and there is nothing that compares to playing in the Garden."

To get him, the Knicks sent Jeffries and rookie Jordan Hill to Houston along with a protected first-round pick in 2012, and gave the Rockets the right to exchange first-round picks in 2011. The Rockets will get high-scoring guard Kevin Martin and forward Hilton Armstrong from Sacramento, while the Kings received Larry Hughes from the Knicks, Carl Landry and Joey Dorsey from Houston and sent guard Sergio Rodriguez to New York.

The Knicks also dealt Nate Robinson to Boston along



Cleveland Cavaliers' Antawn Jamison, left, shakes hands with owner Dan Gilbert before a news conference Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, in Cleveland. The best team in the league filled its last glaring hole when general manager Danny Ferry acquired Jamison Wednesday in a three-team trade with Washington and Los Angeles. Jamison's ability to shoot from the perimeter should create more space inside for Shaquille O'Neal and LeBron James.

Associated Press

with Marcus Landry for Eddie House, J.R. Giddens, Bill Walker and a future conditional second-round pick.

The Bulls were busy, trading power forward Tyrus Thomas to Charlotte for a future, protected first-round pick and the expiring contracts of guards Flip Murray and Acie Law.

Chicago also dealt guard John Salmons to Milwaukee for Hakim Warrick and Joe Alexander, whose contracts also are expiring.

Also Thursday:

—The Utah Jazz traded shooting guard Ronnie Brewer to the Memphis

Grizzlies for a future first-round draft pick.

—Milwaukee made a second trade, sending rookie guard Jodie Meeks and center Francisco Elson to Philadelphia for guard Royal Ivey, center Primož Brezec and a second-round pick in the 2010 draft.

—Sacramento acquired swingman Dominic McGuire and cash from Washington for a protected 2010 second-round pick.

—The Bobcats made another minor trade, acquiring veteran big man Theo Ratliff from San Antonio for a second-round pick. □

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Aruba TODAY

Casey cruising through Match Play competition

By BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

MARANA, Ariz. — Paul Casey has yet to play the final four holes at Dove Mountain after three days of the Match Play Championship.

That's because the Englishman has won all three of his matches 5 and 4, the latest over Brian Gay in the third round Friday. Casey lost to Geoff Ogilvy in the final last year and won the European World Match Play Championship in 2006.

"I don't think there's any one particular part of my game that's jumping out that is fantastic right now," he said. "It's just all very, very solid."

Casey, the highest remaining seed at No. 6 and one of three English players still in it, advanced to a Saturday morning quarterfinal against Stewart Cink, the lone



Paul Casey, of England, waves to the gallery after winning the fourth hole during his 5 and 4 victory over Brian Gay during the third round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

afternoon on the course carved out of a desert hillside near Tucson.

Casey, the former Arizona State star who lives in Scottsdale, has played 13 fewer holes in the last three days than has Cink, who knows by experience how precious energy can be on Saturday, when golfers face the prospect of playing 36 holes, perhaps more.

A year ago, Cink won in 19 holes over Richard Sterne, then 23 holes against Lee Westwood. After exhausting 1-up victories over Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els, 36 holes on that Saturday, he faced Ogilvy in the final.

"And I just ran out of gas against Ogilvy. I just didn't have much," Cink said. "This year I've been extra holes once, I've been to the 18th hole every other match. I'm not exactly giving myself much rest."

Casey, on the other hand, is unconcerned about not having seen those final four holes for a while.

"I played them in a practice round, and I played them last year," he said. "... I think the most important thing is to save the energy."

Watney and Goosen were even going into the 18th hole. But Watney missed a 6-foot putt for par to help Goosen to make it to the quarterfinals for the third time.

Villegas won four of the last seven holes to beat Crane.

The tournament seemed to become an afterthought to the golf world in the glare of Tiger Woods' public apology Friday, except for the competitors.

"I'm glad he came out and said something but, you know, I just think everyone should go on with their own lives now and let him get on with his," Wilson said. "I just want him back on the course." □

Joe Durant leads Mayakoba Golf Classic

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico — Joe Durant shot a 5-under 66 on Friday to increase his lead to two strokes in the PGA Tour's Mayakoba Golf Classic.

The 45-year-old Durant, a four-time tour winner, had a 12-under 130 total on the Mayakoba Resort's Greg Norman-designed El Camaleon course. He opened with a 64.

"I think the key today is I stayed very patient," Durant said. "I bogeyed the first hole, but I said, 'It's a long day. Let's be patient and give ourselves some opportunities.' Birdied 12 and 13, so then I felt like I was rolling again."

"Last year I probably would not have been as patient as I was today."

J.P. Hayes (67) was second, and Cameron Beckman (68) was another stroke back at 9 under. Tom Pernice Jr. (68) and Brian Stuard (67) were 8 under.

John Daly was tied for 17th at 5 under after a 69. David Duval, second last week at Pebble Beach, followed his opening 71 with a 79 to miss the cut.

Durant birdied his final two holes, the par-5 eighth and par-4 ninth.

"The par 5, No. 8, was straight downwind. Made an easy birdie there," Durant said. "And then nine, hit a good tee shot. Second shot was a little short. Had about probably a 30-footer, but made a really nice putt."

Finishing in the rain, Hayes also closed with birdies on Nos. 8 and 9. □

surviving American and a semifinalist in 2008 and 2009.

Cink beat South African Charl Schwartzel in 19 holes, rolling in a 29-foot putt on the 16th and an 18-footer on the 18th to avoid elimination.

"To be able to win against a guy like that today was really special," Cink said, "and especially the way I did it."

Spain's Sergio Garcia advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time in nine appearances, beating Tim Clark of South Africa 2 and 1. Garcia will play Oliver Wilson, who beat fellow Englishman Luke Donald in 20 holes in a match that exceeded even Cink's in drama.

Wilson's approach on No. 18 landed 2 feet from the cup, but Donald rolled in a 50-footer over several slopes to stay alive.

"A bit harsh, I thought," Wilson said.

Wilson made a nearly-as-difficult putt from 38 feet

two holes later, then won the match when Donald missed a 12-footer.

"If I'd have missed (the 38-footer) I think he would have holed that," Wilson said, "so it needed to get done, and it was nice to get it over with."

The other two quarterfinal matches have South African Retief Goosen against Colombian Camilo Villegas, and Ian Poulter of England against Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand. Goosen beat Nick Watney 1-up, Villegas defeated Ben Crane 3 and 2, Poulter beat Jeev Milkha Singh 5 and 4, and Jaidee defeated Ryo Ishikawa 5 and 4.

Jaidee, the lowest remaining seed at No. 48, is in his first Match Play Championship. The other seven still in the tournament have made it to at least one quarterfinal before this.

At 40, Jaidee is 22 years older than Ishikawa.

Morning winners go on to play the semifinals Saturday

In honor of 4 marines who lost their lives

Prime Minister Mike Eman tributes anchor to 4 men

A monument was placed at the Royal Dutch Marines Station



Roy Van Putten passes

WBC Vice President Roy Van Putten passed away last night in Aruba. Van Putten joined the WBC in 1985. He was the creator of the Continental Americas championships and the creator and leader of the Caribbean Boxing Federation. “Van Putten was one of the best boxing commissioners that the WBC President has known,” said WBC President Jose Sulaiman. “He made a cathedral of the loyalty, the commitment, the passion and the love for the boxing sport and for human rights and justice; we will always remember him.” The WBC has declared a day of world mourning.☐



SAVANETA – An official ceremony was held at the Marine Station in the presence of Prime Minister Mike Eman in which a plaque was placed at the anchor of a war vessel from the 2nd world war. This monument is to honor and recognize the 4 marines who were stationed in Curacao and came to Aruba

where they lost their lives while dismantling a torpedo. This tragedy happened on the 18th of February 1942, and yesterday 68 years later Commander Eric Hofman held a tribute to the men who lost their lives in the name of the Dutch Antilles and explained that the anchor is a symbol of hope and determination.

Continued on Next Page



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Prime Minister Mike Eman tributes anchor to 4 men



Continued from Page B1

The four men who lost their lives were Major Dirk de Maagd, Lieutenant Pieter Joose, Mariner 1st Class Leonardus Kooyman y Johannes Vogelenzang, Mariner 2nd Class.

Historian Duffi Kock gave an explanation of the events that took place 68 years ago and acknowledged three rescue divers Andre Loonstra, Dick de Bruin and toin van der Klooster for their hard work and dedication for the tribute with the anchor.



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For me, she'll always be a beautiful lady sister friend ,yes !

With still a lot of time for excitement and fun Heaven send

Because she's a special daughter of our brother Roy van Putten with a smile

Let's give sister Jacky, a big round of applause in style

And even though the Chapter of Aruba is falling asleep

I bet, that not even five sisters went out there to lift her up and scream

I, sister Ruthy, admire sister Jacky for having realized one of her dreams

Life is full of surprises, life is filled with love for our friends
and for our family

And even though I still don't know what exactly I'm doing in the Order
of the Eastern Star

With feelings close and then with feelings from a distance so far.....

We'll celebrate the joy and fun for living, with a drink, later, at the bar.

P.S. Roy van Putten. Jacky Ponson-van Putten's father was present in the stadium and was cheering for his beautiful daughter Jacky . Today, Roy is a member of the group of angels watching over his beautiful family from above, since his Creator God has come to take him home in His love, just a couple of days after this colorful Carnival season.

Local Poet Lady Ruth knows that Sadness goes hand in hand with Joy always, that's why she shares this poem as part of more inspiration in the future. Our love goes out to Jacky's family.

Ruthy" Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen, Aruba February 2010.

Netherlands Antilles agrees new cabinet



The leaders of six political parties in the Netherlands Antilles have reached agreement on forming a new government under incumbent Prime Minister Emily de Jong-Elhage.

The new cabinet is virtually identical to the outgoing government.

The only party not returning is the FOL led by Anthony Godett. The FOL failed to be re-elected to parliament.

The new government will be installed on 26 March.

But it will only be in power until 10 October 2010, when the Netherlands Antilles will be dismantled. From that date, Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius will become special municipalities of the Netherlands.

Curaçao and Sint Maarten will become autonomous within the Netherlands. □

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Giant Jackpot for Aruba home-owner at Cool Casino

PALM BEACH – The LaPierres who have a home in Aruba came to their favorite Caribbean island for Carnival and St Valentine's Day. Having celebrated both in grand style they also visited their favorite Cool Casino, at the Riu Palace and found that lady luck was waiting for them with a \$12.500 jackpot. John is seen here in the picture with his winnings, and the Triple Diamond \$5 slot machine. He played just two credits, and the metal head reciprocated generously.

Cool Casino just recently unveiled King Kong Cash, a bank of slot machines by Atronic, nicknamed the Eight Wonder of the World. Based on Universal Studio's monstrous movie, KING KONG CASH is the latest giant step in linked gaming from ATRONIC. Featuring a 4-level progressive jackpot and interactive bonus rounds, this game is guaranteed to be as thrilling as the movie! □

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Wind is the way of the future

2010 is a great year for wind turbines



ORANJESTAD - "The windmills at Vader Piet are yielding even more energy than previously calculated," says Freddy Vargas of Engysol, a local company that installs windmills for private use. "Instead of 60 percent, nature is generating 75 percent of its 30MW capacity, a total of 20 percent of the island's total use." Asked if that means that everyone's electricity bill will be lowered, Freddy shakes his head:

"No, unfortunately this piece of good news does not benefit the general public. Only if one would have his own windmill, the bill would be



next to nothing." A windmill that generates energy behind your house, the trade wind picking up the bill: that is the green solution of the future to sky high monthly electricity bills. On windless or rainy days, 'normal' energy is used, but during the rest of the time it will be nature's bounty that does the work. A few windmills have been installed by now, making the home owners very glad every end of the month. "Engysol and parent company Proven Energy are delivering," declares Vargas. He refers to two local people who were taken in with the promises of low quality

Chinese-manufactured windmills: although almost just as expensive, both of them do not function.

Engysol is the company of engineer Freddy Vargas (31), who was born in Colombia, but who grew up on Aruba. He has studied in Holland. During the past three years he has been an MTS teacher on Aruba, but in August 2008 he took the step to start his own firm. With his technical background and specialized in renewable energy, Freddy is Proven Energy's Caribbean supplier, the world's leader in the field of small wind turbines. Currently Proven Energy is branching out and it is conquering the world as we speak, starting in the US, South America and the Caribbean. This British firm has already a thirty year-experience in Europe; it has built up a global reputation for reliable turbine performance. With the world's focus on green energy and with President Obama behind it all the way, wind turbines and solar energy will be the road of the future for sure.

"The wind turbines will pay for themselves," explains Freddy.

Although the initial cost is the same as one would pay for a compact car, the figures tell their own, lucid story. "One pays off a wind turbine in 5 to 7 years, but its lifetime is 25 years minimum. Your electricity bill from the utility company will be reduced by 70 to 80 percent, making the investment very sound indeed."

The windmills are between 6.5



and 15 meters high, making them ideal to catch the free energy from the wind. "The only extra cost for the client is an annual maintenance visit." The wind turbines are made of super durable marine quality stainless and galvanized steel and they have a unique flexible blade system that adapt to any wind condition.

They function even during hurricanes, is Engysol's promise.

Visitors at ExpoCas, an expo on everything connected to living, might have met Freddy, who was super busy during

the three-day event. Should you have missed him, then his company may be looked up at www.engysol.com or www.provenenergy.com. One can also mail to info@engysol.com. General information is found on Facebook and there is a YouTube video that you can look up. In the near future Mr. Vargas is teaching a workshop for people interested in becoming a registered installer for Proven wind turbines. Remember the sky is the limit when it comes to wind energy, and green energy is the way of the future! □



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HUMAN HINTS

The Uncertainty Principle And You – Practical Application

Yesterday, we were introduced to the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. We explained that for particles and people, we cannot know the position and momentum both accurately. As one is seen accurately, the

other becomes blurry. This is how a packet of energy can express as a particle or a wave, depending on how we look at it. Momentum is a wave-like measurement and position is a particle-like measurement.

We can measure one or the other with accuracy, but not both at the same time.

Remembering that people, like particles, are consciousness expressing through packets of energy, we can apply this to ourselves and our own lives.

Thinking of ourselves as little packets of conscious energy that express ourselves differently, depending on who is watching, how can we apply this to our lives? The Uncertainty Principle is about accuracy in the simultaneous measurement of two characteristics. When we take an overview of our lives, we can know either our position in life very accurately, or our momentum, where we're headed, but we cannot know where we're headed and where we are right now both accurately at the same time.

Imagine facing a decision that will affect your future, and let's see if Heisenberg Uncertainty can help. First, we step back and measure our present situation. We assess where we are in life (our position), and what we want from our future to be like (our momentum).

We want our decision to make our future better, so we focus on our momentum, we think about where we want to go. But in order to get there, many patterns in our present lives must change, so the present becomes less clear. We define the future by what we focus on, what we think about and surround ourselves with. As

the future gains clarity in your mind and emotions, the present point becomes less clear because your life must change in unknown ways in order to get to your clear future.

This can be scary because it seems like we are losing control of our lives, when we are actually gaining control over the big picture of where our life is headed. As our lives change to reflect our new thoughts, we get scared and cling to what we know. We resist letting go and allowing change to happen, we get in our own way. The more we allow change, the more effortless the journey will be.

The details of how the change will occur is the mysterious journey of life. We don't know how the future will come about (our position), but our thoughts and emotions define where we want to go (our momentum). Like being on an airplane, as long as we know the destination, our exact position in any given time throughout the journey is not important.

If we focus our thoughts and emotions on the goal, it will come in time because our life must transform into what we focus on. The specific surprises, changes, and new directions to get us there are less important, and are naturally out of our control. Our job is to focus on what we want from life, and to allow the changes to happen. Know that every change brings you closer to your goal, whether it seems like it at the time or

not. When your life redirects in unforeseen ways, Focus on the big-picture Goal.

So many times, we ask for change, then resist it when it comes. When we ask for change, we must know that our desire causes the Universe to rearrange itself to accommodate our desires. The more you focus your thoughts, feelings and actions on attaining your goal, the more directly you will get there. The more you let go and allow change, the more effortless the journey will be. *Until Tomorrow...*

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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R	EDGE OF DARKNESS	daily: 6:00 matinee: 1:00	8:30 late show: 11:00	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	2:00 late show:	
PG	VALENTINE'S DAY	daily: 6:15 matinee: 12:30	8:45 late show: 11:30	
R	THE WOLFMAN	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:15	8:45 late show: 11:30	
R	LEGION	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:00	7:15 late show: 12:15	
AT PASEO HERENCIA				
R	FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:45	6:15 late show: 11:00	NEW
PG-13	DEAR JOHN	daily: 6:15 matinee: 1:15	8:45 late show: 11:30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:00	2:00 late show:	
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R	THE BOOK OF ELI	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:15	9:00 late show: 11:45	
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Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

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the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours! Enjoy live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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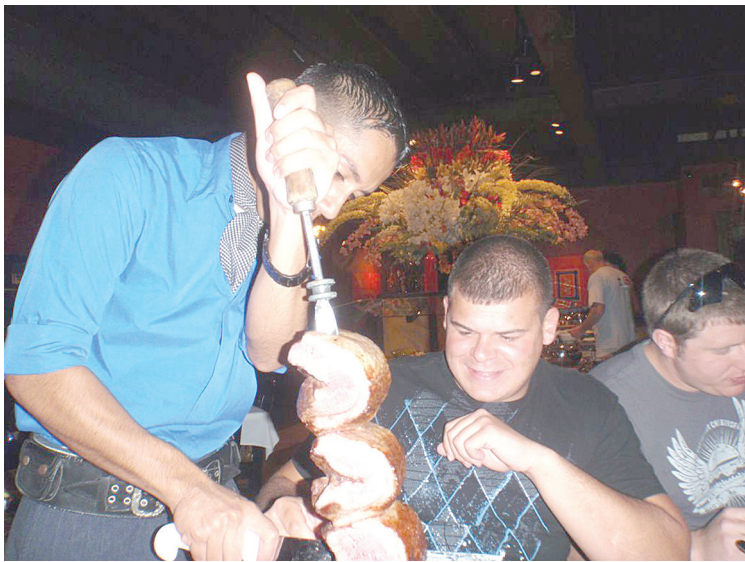
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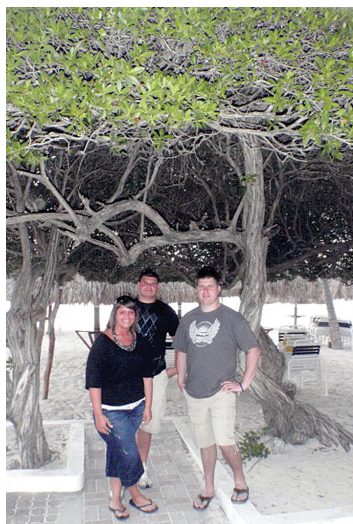


Marriott's Surf Club owners enjoy Texas de Brazil and other island activities

Gerber family loves One Happy Island



PALM BEACH - Kent and Kim Gerber have been enjoying a long holiday on Aruba at the Marriott's Surf Club with their 2 children who have been coming to the island for the 4th time. Kyle is 22 and Kyra is 16. Kyle brought his friend Mark Maller along and this was Marks first time. Mark's Mother and Father and sister have been to Aruba once so Mark finally got his turn to come with the Gerbers. They rented 4 wheelers, motorcycles, went to DePalm Island and ate at a great place everynight. They loved the snorkling and the boys hit the casinos a few times and both came out ahead. They will be back to this one great happy island. □





Indulgence by the Sea, The spas located in Aruba and St. Maarten are now offering specials for Valentine's Day.

The first location opened in 2003, at the Divi Aruba All Inclusive Beach Resort and soon expanded into St. Maarten. Since opening

their doors, the focus has remained the same. They offer exceptional service, with the highest trained therapist on the island and use only organic products. Angie Wallace-Martinez, the owner, said "There is no secret to our success. We know that our staff is what

makes us so successful and our attention to every detail."

They recently expanded their services to offer their 1st Hair and Nail Studio at the Tamarijn Beach Resort. They have plans to expand these services into St. Maarten this year as well.

All treatments begin with a Pure Essential oil rose filled foot bath, as you begin your journey to relaxation.

Their product lines include Eminence Organic Skincare, Osmosis Pür Medical Skincare, Matrix Biolage Hair Products, OPI and Bomb Cosmetics.

For more information and a complete list of their services you can visit them at www.spaaruba.com / www.spastmaarten.com and follow them on Facebook. Search <Indulgence by the Sea> We look forward to treating you to a little "Indulgence" □

Treat the one you love...



With Elegant Artist Rita & Husband Joe Mondolfi

Local Art Piece "Echoes In The Light" Goes To USA

An Honor For Ruthy "Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen



PALM BEACH - Recently during an art auction held in the Westin Aruba Art Gallery at the Westin Hotel many artworks were donated by local artists. All proceeds go to Haiti's victims of the terrible earthquake that hit Haiti a little over a month ago.

Our well known Local Poet-Artist Ruthy "Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen was very happy to meet and talk to the new owners of her art piece Mr. & Mrs. Rita and Joe Mondolfi from the USA in person, and was inspired by the beautiful way they

expressed themselves about Lady Ruth's artwork "Echoes in the light" and about Aruba, our little island in the sun, together with long time friends Barbara & John Kapusta, coming to Aruba for more than 20 years already. Lady Ruth is still exploring with her own style and technique, not the Mrs. Perfectionist, while she still enjoys all art discipline, like singing, dancing and acting as hobbies, next to presenting her radio program "Sweet musical rain" on 106.7 FM Radio Kelkboom every Saturday from 2 to 3 pm in the afternoon. Simply a woman with great talents and dedication to share and inspire others. A big thank you from her heart to a beautiful warm-hearted lady Rita Mondolfi,



who likes to paint with oil, so an artist herself who had a very artistic hairstyle that beautiful evening, when romantically she will be still on the island of Aruba for more weeks, and thus celebrated St. Valentines day with her strong and

handsome husband Joe. We wish The Mondolfis and the Kapustas a lovely stay on the island, with a lot of love and blessings!!! For more info about our local Poet-artist Ruthy "Lady Ruth" : ruthyvrieswijk@gmail.com □

SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live!. Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1

At the Westin Aruba at 9.PM nightly



Magician Adam Steinfeld laughs it up, on stage, at the Magic Live!® theater, showroom.

ASTONISHING! EXCITING! MYSTIFYING! FUN! ...enjoy a hilarious evening of Magic, fun for entire family.

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live!

Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world.

I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba.MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



IF YOU GO

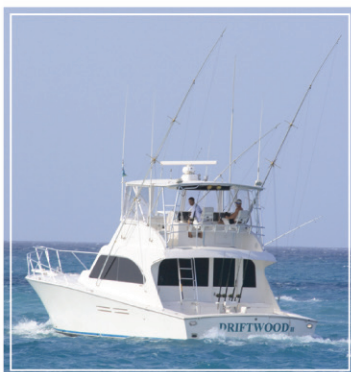
What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
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Tickets: at the door
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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

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Catch your own dinner

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Xavier: Bad governance to ignore new tasks in budget

PHILIPSBURG--It would be "bad governance and irresponsible" for the 2010 budget to completely ignore the acquisition of Central Government tasks and funds by St. Maarten as has been advised by the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT, Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman said Thursday. "It is unrealistic to present a budget without the expected changes that will come with the passing on of tasks, etc. [from the Central Government]. ... It would be irresponsible and strange to do as if nothing is happening in light of the speed of the developments [dismantling and ongoing new Central Government formation talks]," the commissioner told the press.

His comments come after Democratic Party (DP) Island Councilman Roy Marlin urged the National Alliance (NA)/Heyliger coalition Tuesday to withdraw the draft budget that is yet to be approved by CFT and to file a new one by May 1.

CFT has submitted an advice to government of things it would like to see added, adjusted or removed from the draft budget. Among these is the removal of projections for tasks and funds the island will receive with the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and the building-up of country St. Maarten.

If the agreements in place are not firm, the commissioner said, then chapter four of the Kingdom Budget,

which outlines the tasks the Dutch Government will assume for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba when they become Dutch public entities on 10-10-10 is all off keel.

A budget is not static and can be amended or adjusted as circumstances change, he noted, adding that the idea of pulling back the draft budget and presenting a new one makes no sense. He also said he had never come across such a situation in the financial world. Blackman said the CFT's stance that the agreements on the transfers and other matters were not firm enough to be taken up and reflected in the budget made no sense, because the dismantling could not be ignored.

The DP has also been critical about government not complying with the CFT's advice and had warned that this could jeopardise the constitutional change process and lead to the Kingdom Government instructing the island to follow the advice as is.

CFT has an advisory capacity in the budgetary process, which simply means it gives its opinion and suggestions to government for consideration, but if government decides or sees a matter differently it is not bound by the CFT's advice, the commissioner said.

As for putting the process in jeopardy, Blackman said the Central Government had not followed all the advice of CFT and this had not triggered a negative advice

or report to the Kingdom Council of Ministers.

CFT had given government until Wednesday to respond as to how it will follow its advice on the draft budget that will soon be tabled in the Island Council. Government sent its response Thursday acknowledging its receipt of the CFT correspondence and outlining some of its "preliminary" steps. Blackman declined to go further into the contents of the letter.

Blackman also blamed the former Democratic

Party (DP) government for not having the foresight to negotiate a transition period for the application of the temporary measures on financial supervision that were agreed to in 2006.

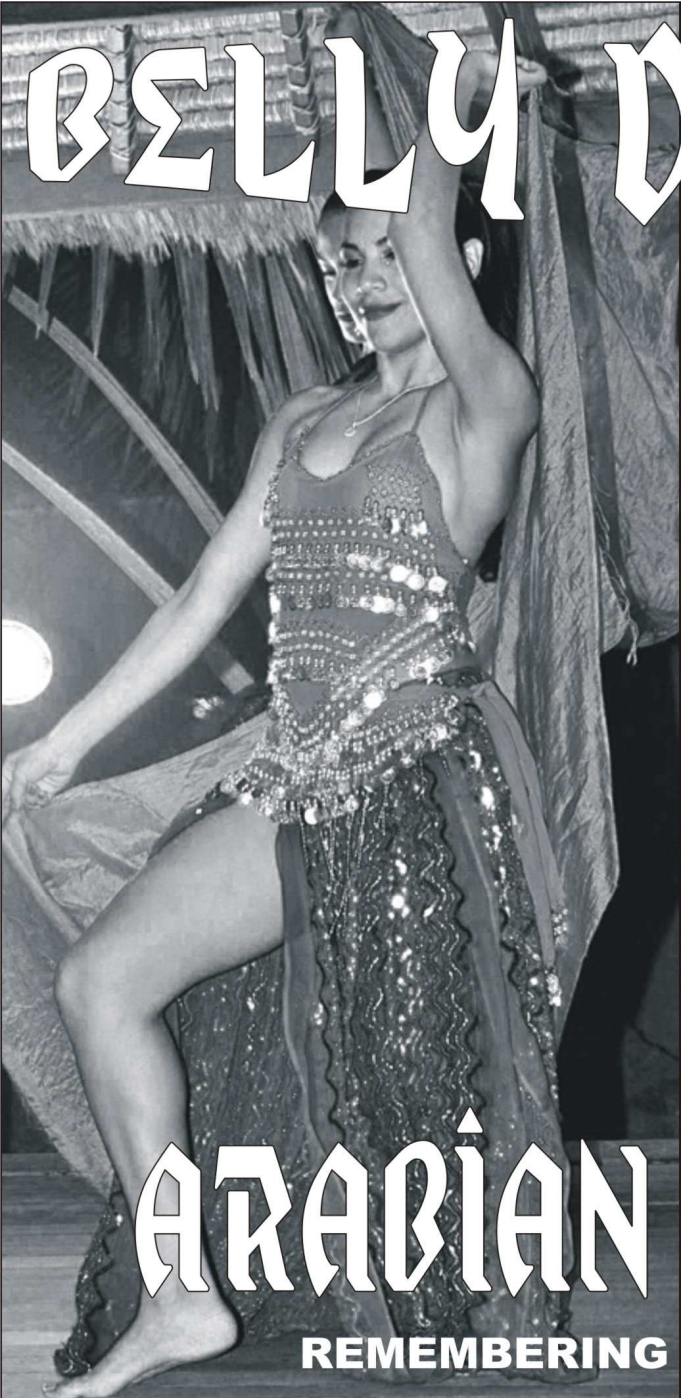
Without a transition period like that afforded to the BES islands, St. Maarten has had to move from balanced budgets on paper that in reality had considerable deficits to a truly balanced one that stands up to the scrutiny of CFT.

No transition period also meant that St. Maarten has

had no time to deal with its financial backlog and has had to face the pinch of the global financial crisis, all while preparing for the status of country within the kingdom, Blackman said in a press conference in the Parliament Building on Thursday.

The press conference was held at this location because the Government Administration Building was the base for the formation talks for the new Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles. □

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Futuro presidente Chile prevé 2010 austero, priorizará demandas

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - El presidente electo de Chile, Sebastián Piñera, advirtió el viernes que no podrá satisfacer todas las demandas sociales en la primera parte de su gobierno en el 2010 debido a que tendrá un presupuesto austero tras el fuerte déficit fiscal del año pasado.

Piñera, un multimillonario de derecha, asumirá el 11 de marzo por un período de cuatro años, tras vencer en las elecciones al candidato del bloque de centroizquierda, que por 20 años ha gobernado en Chile.

El empresario de derecha venció en las elecciones tras hacer promesas de “cambio” durante su campaña, en la que también anticipó estímulos a las empresas privadas para aumentar el empleo y potenciar el crecimiento.

Durante la designación de los futuros subsecretarios de su gabinete, Piñera dijo que en el 2009 Chile tuvo un déficit fiscal de un 4,5 por ciento del



Imagen de archivo del presidente electo de Chile, Sebastián Piñera, en un discurso tras haber ganado las elecciones presidenciales, en Santiago. Enero 17 2010. El presidente electo de Chile, Sebastián Piñera, advirtió el viernes que no podrá satisfacer todas las demandas sociales en la primera parte de su gobierno en el 2010 debido a que tendrá un presupuesto austero tras el fuerte déficit fiscal del año pasado. REUTERS/Victor Ruiz Caballero/archivo

Producto Interno Bruto (PIB) o unos 7.200 millones de dólares, que aseguró es uno de los más altos de la historia del país y “no repetible”.

“Quiero reiterar hoy día nuestro compromiso con una política pública y fiscal sana, responsable, seria y sustentable, lo que significará

un marco presupuestario austero para el año 2010”, dijo Piñera durante la ceremonia. Lo anterior, “nos obligará a priorizar las necesidades

más sensibles de la gente, pero que no nos permitirá acoger todas las demandas de la ciudadanía, por justas y legítimas que ellas sean”, agregó.

En noviembre, el Congreso chileno aprobó el último presupuesto del Gobierno de la saliente mandataria Michelle Bachelet, que prevé un déficit fiscal de un 1,1 por ciento en el 2010, con un aumento del gasto público de un 4,3 por ciento.

El mandatario electo se ha comprometido a crear 1 millón de empleos durante su Gobierno.

La actividad económica chilena se contrajo cerca de un 1,7 por ciento en el 2009, en su primera recesión en una década debido a los efectos de la crisis global. Los últimos indicadores muestran un repunte de la economía y para el 2010 el Banco Central ha anticipado una expansión del PIB de entre un 4,5 y un 5,5 por ciento. □

Brasil:

Se hunde barco canadiense; todos a salvo

RIODEJANEIRO (AP) - Un barco canadiense con estudiantes de secundaria y de universidad se hundió frente a la costa de Brasil, pero sus 64 pasajeros fueron rescatados el viernes después de 16 horas en balsas encontradas en mares encrespados.

La armada brasileña dijo a través de un comunicado que respondió a una señal de socorro procedente del SV Concordia, un velero de tres mástiles, a las 17 horas (1900 GMT) del jueves. Tres horas después, un avión de la Fuerza Aérea localizó las balsas flotando en el océano a unos 500 kilómetros (300 millas náuticas) de la costa de Río de Janeiro. La armada ya había informado a los barcos que navegaban por la zona que estuvieran atentos ante la posibilidad de que detectaran naufragos entre el oleaje.

“Todos los ocupantes del barco han sido rescatados, todos han sido contabilizados”, dijo una vocera de la marina bajo la condición de anonimato por no estar autorizada a hablar del incidente.

Un total de 48 estudiantes _de los dos últimos años de secundaria así como universitarios de primer año_ estaban a bordo de la embarcación,

dijo Kate Knight, directora del Colegio West Island International de Lunenburg, Nueva Escocia, el cual opera el programa de Clase A Flote.

Edgardo Ybranz, capitán del barco carguero Hokuetsu Delight con bandera filipina, dijo a The Associated Press por teléfono vía satélite que su barco rescató a 44 de las víctimas en aguas muy agitadas y peligrosas. Las personas restantes fueron salvadas por otro barco.

Ybranz dijo que el médico del Concordia había sufrido una lesión antes del rescate, pero que se encontraba bien. No ofreció más detalles.

Los demás resultaron ilesos, dijo Ybranz: “Pueden decirle a sus padres que todo está bien; toda persona a bordo de mi barco está bien”. El capitán se negó a poner en el teléfono a alguno de los sobrevivientes. “Todos están abajo en las escaleras durmiendo porque están exhaustos, así que no voy a despertar a ninguno de ellos”, dijo el capitán antes de cortar la llamada para comunicarse con sus empleadores. Autoridades de la escuela dijeron que 42 de los estudiantes a bordo eran de Canadá. □

Paraguay niega asesoría de Colombia contra guerrilla

ASUNCION (AP) - El ministerio de Defensa negó el viernes la contratación de asesores colombianos para intentar capturar a los miembros del grupo guerrillero Ejército del Pueblo Paraguayo (EPP) dedicado al secuestro extorsivo en el norte del país.

El ministro Luis Bareiro dijo el viernes en un comunicado que la cartera a su cargo por “pleno ejercicio de respeto y acatamiento a los innegables principios de soberanía nacional, no ha tenido, no tiene, ni tendrá cualquiera fuese la denominación y calificación, asesores ni expertos extranjeros que pretendan dictar las normas a seguir en circunstancias especiales”.

Las versiones sobre la presunta asesoría colombiana fueron difundidas por medios locales. “Es inexacta la información que Colombia cooperará con Paraguay para realizar incursiones en terreno dominado por la organización terrorista denominada Ejército del Pueblo Paraguayo (EPP)”, agregó el militar.

Las expresiones de Bareiro contrastan con las del ministro del Interior, Rafael Filizzola, quien tres semanas atrás agradeció al grupo de 8 agentes antisequestros de la fiscalía colombiana por haber cooperado en la búsqueda del productor rural Fidel Zavala, liberado por el EPP tras 94 días de cautiverio en el nortño departamento de Concepción. □

Cuba y EEUU comienzan conversaciones migratorias

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Funcionarios de Cuba y Estados Unidos iniciaron el viernes una nueva ronda de conversaciones migratorias, buscando mantener abierto un canal de comunicación tras recientes tropiezos diplomáticos que han afectado intentos de ambos enemigos por mejorar sus lazos.

El encuentro se inició en la mañana en un lugar no revelado de La Habana, dijo una fuente diplomática estadounidense. Es la segunda reunión desde que las negociaciones migratorias fueron reanudadas en julio del 2009 después de un paréntesis de seis años, en lo que fue interpretado entonces como una señal de aproximación bajo el Gobierno del presidente Barack Obama.

Pero los contactos en La

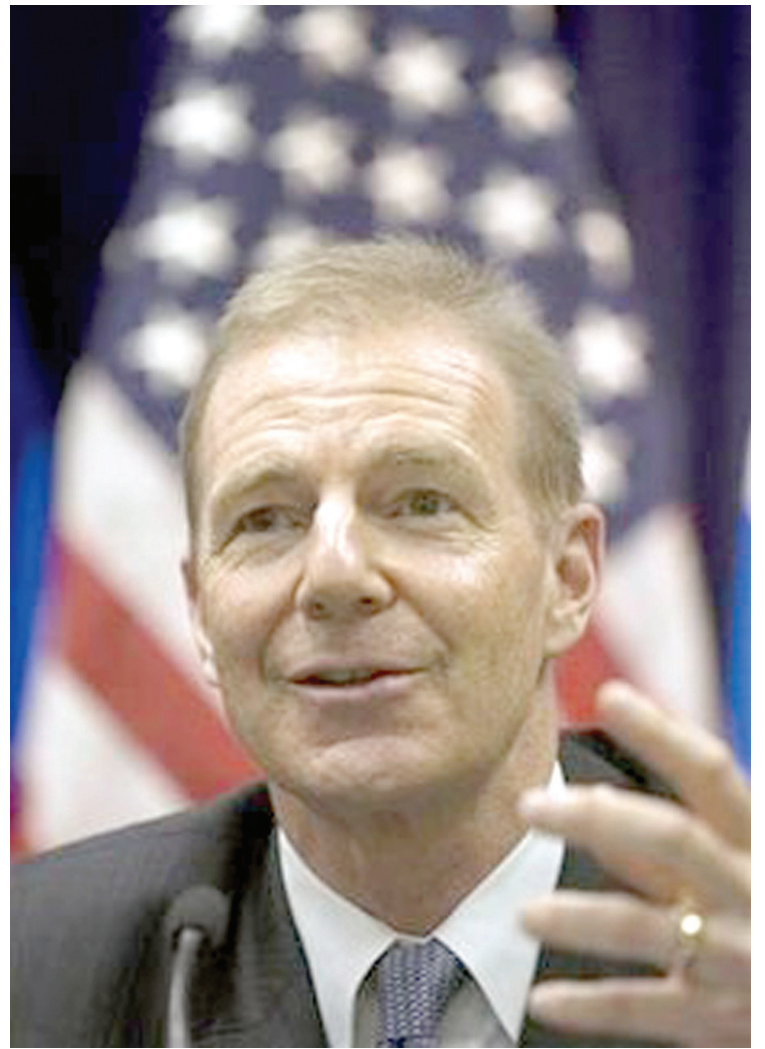
Habana se realizan en un clima poco optimista y ensombrecidos por la detención en diciembre pasado en Cuba de un contratista estadounidense acusado de repartir equipos satelitales ilegales a disidentes.

“Las discusiones se centrarán en la mejor forma de promover una emigración segura, legal y ordenada entre Cuba y los Estados Unidos”, había dicho el Departamento de Estado en un comunicado. La delegación estadounidense está encabezada por el subsecretario de la Oficina de Asuntos Hemisféricos del Departamento de Estado, Craig Kelly, que podría abordar la situación del contratista durante las conversaciones.

Cuba ha sugerido que el contratista trabajaba para

los servicios de inteligencia de Estados Unidos. Washington lo niega. El presidente cubano, Raúl Castro, dijo que su detención demostraba que Obama busca acabar con el sistema socialista de Cuba, igual que sus predecesores. Cuba y Estados Unidos tienen previsto emitir comunicados al final de las negociaciones migratorias en la tarde del viernes. Ambos gobiernos se declararon satisfechos tras la primera ronda realizada en julio pasado en Nueva York. □

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Imagen de archivo del subsecretario de la Oficina de Asuntos Hemisféricos del Departamento de Estado de EEUU, en una conferencia en San Salvador. Mayo 19 2009. REUTERS/Luis Galdamez/archivo



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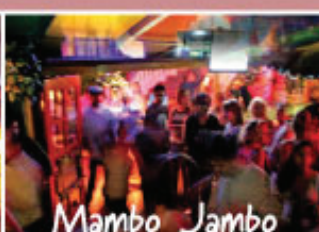
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